

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 07787 070537Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 SSM-03 TRSE-00 ACDA-07
IO-13 /102 W

-----071609Z 065649 /73

R 061531Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4829
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
/AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI 3327
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 7787

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EG, UR, LY
SUBJ: SOVIET "MEMORANDUM" CONTROVERSY LAID TO REST

REF (A) CAIRO 7374, (B) CAIRO 7336, (C) MOSCOW 5967,

1. AHRABM MAY 6 CARRIES FRNT PAGE EXCLUSIVE BY "POLITICAL
EDITOR" REVEALING HOW SOVIET-EGYPTIAN IMBRAGOLIO OVER SOVIET
"MEMORANDUM" CONCERNING LIBYA (REFTELS) FINALLY LAID TO REST.
ACCORDING TO AHRAH, SOVIET AMB POLYAKOV PRESENTED FAHMY
(DATE UNSPECIFIED) WITH MEMORANDUM CONTAINING TWO PARTS
(A) SECTION ON KREMLIN ATTITUDE ON EGYPTIAN-LIBYAN RELATIONS
(COMMENT: APPARENTLY IDENTICAL TO VERSION GIVEN BY CROWN PRINCE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CAIRO 07787 070537Z

HASSAN TO EGYPTIAN AMB IN AMMAN); AND (B) SECTION CONCERNING
DESIRE OF SOVIETS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH EGYPT, PROCESS
WHICH BEGAN WITH FAHMY-GROMYKO MEETING IN SOFIA NOV 76.
FAHMY REPORTEDLY REJECTED FIRST SECTION, DELCARING SOVIET
INTERFERENCE IN EGYPT'S RELATIONS WITH QADHAFI WAS INTERFERENCE
IN EGYPTIAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. POLYAKOV THEN REPORTEDLY SEPARATED
TWO SECTIONS OF SOVIET MEMORANDUM, PRESENTING FAHMY ONLY WITH

SECTIONS DEALING WITH IMPROVED BILATERAL RELATIONS, WHICH WAS ACCEPTED.

2. WITH POLYAKOV'S "WITHDRAWAL" OF MEMORANDUM'S FIRST SECTION, AHRAH NOTES, AFFAIR "NOW CONSIDERED CLOSED", SINCE MOSCOW IS CONSIDERED BY GOE TO HAVE CHANGED RECENT TACTICS. GOE WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR SOVIET MEDIA ATTACKS ON SADAT AND EGYPT CAREFULLY, HOWEVER, TO MAKE SURE SOVIETS TURNING OVER NEW LEAF. ARTICLE ENDS WITH COMMENT THAT SOVIETS HAVE TOWAYS OF INFORMING GOVTS OF MEMORANDA SUCH AS EGYPTIAN-LIBYAN NOTE: ORAL BRIEFING ON CONTENTS OR PRESENTATION OF TEXT. AHRAH DECLARES THAT TEXT OF MEMORANDUM PRESENTED IN ONLY ONE (UNNAMED) CAPITAL; ORAL BRIEFING OCCURRED IN "SEVERAL" OTHERS.

3. BRITISH EMBASSY INFORMS US THAT SOVIETS MADE ORAL DEMARCHE ON MEMORANDUM IN DAMASCUS AND BAGHDAD, TO WHICH MUST BE ADDED SANA AND RABAT. FAHMY'S OFFICE DIR AL BAZ TOLD DCM DEMARCHE ALSO MADE IN RABAT. YUGOSLAV AMB TELLS US MEMO ALSO PRESENTED BY SOVIETS IN BELGRADE AS "BOUT DE PAPIER".

4. AHRAH MAY 6 ALSO CARRIES FRONT PAGE ARTICLE, DATELINED TRIPOLI FROM NEWS AGENCY SOURCES, ALLEGING THAT QADHAFI APPEALED TO MOSCOW IN EARLY APRIL, REQUESTING SOVIET ASSISTANCE TO DEFLECT EGYPTIAN PLANS TO ATTACK LIBYA. MOSCOW REPORTEDLY CABLED SOVIET AMBS IN ME, ASKING FOR ASSESSMENT OF EGYPTIAN INTENTIONS TOWARD LIBYA. SOVIET AMBS APPARENTLY DID NOT BELIEVE EGYPT PLANNING INVASION, BUT KREMLIN FELT IT NECESSARY TO HONOR QADHAFI REQUEST AND CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CAIRO 07787 070537Z

ORDERED AMBS TO MAKE DEMARCHES ON "MEMORANDUM", FROM WHICH IMBROGLIO ENSUED.

5. COMMENT: SOURCE OF AHRAH STORY IS CLEARLY FAHMY, WHO HAS PREDICTABLY ISSUED VERSION FAVORABLE TO EGYPTIAN SIDE. WE ARE, HOWEVER, HEARING CONFLICTING VERSIONS OF INCIDENT FROM DIP COLLEAGUES AND ARE ATTEMPTING TO SORT OUT THE PIECES. SINCE INITIALLY TELLING US OF SOVIET MEMORANDUM, FAHMY HAS BEEN CLOSE-MOUTHED IN PROVIDING FURTHER INFO. ALTHOUGH AMB SAW HIM TWICE SINCE HIS INITIAL RECITAL (APRIL 26), FAHMY HAS NEVER ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE SOVIETS PRESENTED OR TRIED TO PRESENT THE MEMORANDUM TO HIM DIRECTLY (APRIL 29) OR THAT HE REBUFFED SUCH AN ATTEMPT. WHEN AMB MET WITH FAHMY YESTERDAY, SHORTLY AFTER THE MIN HAD MET WITH SOVIET AMB POLYAKOV, FAHMY CLAIMED THAT THERE WAS NOTHING NEW ON THE MATTER. FAHMY'S OBVIOUS DESIRE NOT TO REVEAL FURTHER DETAILS MAY BE CAUSED BY THE STILL ONGOING NATURE OF RECENT EGYPTIAN-SOVIET EXCHANGES OR BY EGYPTIAN MISGIVINGS ABOUT OUR POSITION VIS-A-VIS LIBYA.

EILTS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, SPHERE OF INFLUENCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CAIRO07787
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770161-0422
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770587/aaaacwrm.tel
Line Count: 117
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 87c68a99-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 CAIRO 7374, 77 CAIRO 7336, 77 MOSCOW 5967
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2620280
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET "MEMORANDUM" CONTROVERSY LAID TO REST
TAGS: PFOR, EG, UR, LY
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/87c68a99-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009